

**A Report for Sanctuary Advisory Council Members**

**Reporting Period: Sept. 19, 2015-Oct. 30, 2015**

## **ABOUT THE SANCTUARY**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary spans 3,189 square miles of marine waters off the rugged Olympic Peninsula coastline. The sanctuary extends 25 to 50 miles seaward, covering much of the continental shelf and several major submarine canyons.

The sanctuary protects a productive upwelling zone home to rich marine mammal and seabird faunas, diverse populations of kelp and intertidal algae, and thriving invertebrate communities. The sanctuary is also rich in cultural resources, with over 150 documented historical shipwrecks and the vibrant contemporary cultures of Makah, Quileute and Hoh Indian Tribes, and Quinault Nation.

## **OFFICE REPORT**

### **OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES**

Organized based on Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS or sanctuary) management plan priority areas.

### **FULFILL TREATY TRUST RESPONSIBILITY**

On October 28, the Quinault Indian Nation hosted the annual meeting for Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC). In its eighth year, IPC work is currently focusing on the development of a habitat framework. IPC discussed progress to date on the habitat framework, reviewed progress on coastal research and unfunded priorities, and examined Washington State's marine spatial plan and how to better collaborate on research priorities and funding. A short field trip to Point Grenville and its sweeping coastal views also reaffirmed our collective commitment to this spectacular area and the challenges it faces.

### **ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT**

#### **Sanctuary Reviews EPA General Permit**

Currently, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is reviewing an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposal to issue a general wastewater discharge permit to offshore seafood processors in federal waters off the Washington and Oregon coasts, which includes sanctuary waters. Recently, sanctuary staff discussed the proposal with EPA Office of Water and Watersheds to learn more about the proposed permit and to express our interest in further consultation. The public comment period was open through October 8, 2015 and the sanctuary provided a comment letter to the public record.

[http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/NPDES+Public+Notices/offshore\\_seafood\\_or\\_wa\\_pn\\_2015](http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/NPDES+Public+Notices/offshore_seafood_or_wa_pn_2015)

#### **Sanctuary Continues Joint Consultation with U.S. Navy and National Marine Fisheries Service**

Sanctuary staff has been consulting with U.S. Navy on navy activities related to the Northwest Test and Training Range, which includes and expands beyond sanctuary waters. National Marine Fisheries Service is also considering authorization of the impact of those activities under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The two agencies provided a joint Sanctuary Resource Statement to Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, a document that narrows the analysis to activities and potential impacts to sanctuary waters and associated resources. In response, the Sanctuary Superintendent has provided recommendations to the Navy and National Marine Fisheries Service for measures to reduce injury to marine mammals and improve information available for future assessment through reporting and monitoring. The sanctuary's rationale included consideration for or avoidance of portions of sanctuary waters where impacts to marine mammals are potentially greater.

## **IMPROVE OCEAN LITERACY**

#### **NatureBridge Olympic Hosts Sanctuary Education Staff for Ocean Acidification**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) education staff presented an overview of the National Marine Sanctuary System and OCNMS to eight high school students and two teachers from Northern Idaho Boulder Creek Academy. The students learned about OCNMS's underwater treasures before a planned trip to the sanctuary at Second Beach. Additionally, students participated in activities and lessons focused on how ocean acidification is impacting our marine environments and organisms, and actions we can all take to mitigate our carbon footprints.

### Smithsonian Institution Interviews Sanctuary Staff and Volunteers for Water Matters Exhibition

The Smithsonian Institution's Multimedia Information Specialist Tiffany Cheng and film crew visited Olympic Coast to interview sanctuary staff and volunteers to hear stories about how scientists and citizens can help care for their natural resources. Interviews with Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary staff, partners and volunteers took place aboard OCNMS research vessel R/V *Tatoosh* and during the 2015 International Coastal Cleanup. Entitled, *Water/Ways*, the exhibit will reveal the deep relationships between water and our society through the stories of how Americans interact with the environment. Specifically, video interviews and audio segments paired with photographs will show not only how Americans use water, but how they reflect on water, how they treat water as a resource and how they interact with nature, including through conservation. The exhibit is being created for Museum on Main Street, a special program within the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service; the program sends high-quality, humanities-based exhibitions to museums, libraries and cultural institutions in small towns across America. In its twenty-first year, the program has reached over 1,000 communities in order to help build their professional capacities and shine a light on their local stories.



### Quileute Tribal School Ocean Science Students Celebrate Marine Mammals on Whale Watching Tour



Quileute Tribal School students in grades 3-7 completed their marine mammal unit with a whale watching tour to observe some of the animals they studied. Twenty-five Quileute Tribal School students, their teachers, Sue Griffith and Racheal Sherman, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) staff and Tribal elders took the five hour boat trip out of Port Angeles. The students studied the area's cetaceans and pinnipeds, and therefore, the Quileute Tribe treated them to this boat trip. The group spotted humpback whales and six members of the T60 transient orca pod, including two babies. The experience gave the students a chance to practically apply their knowledge when they discussed the diet and feeding techniques of orcas (both transient and resident) and humpback whales, as well as harbor seals, California sea lions and Stellar sea lions. Students also played the Whale Jenga game, which focuses on the importance of a healthy marine food web.

### Students "Dive" into Kelp Forest at Dungeness River Festival

On September 25-26, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) educated over 3,000 visitors at the Dungeness River Festival in Sequim about kelp forests and sea otters. Hosted by the Dungeness River Audubon Center, this year's theme was "Healthy environment for healthy communities." On Friday, more than 900 area grade school students attended Kid's Day. The OCNMS education booth provided attendees with an opportunity to "dive" into our sanctuary's kelp forests to learn about sea otters and the role they play in managing a healthy kelp forest ecosystem. On Saturday, the event shared information on marine protected areas with the general public.



### Ecosystem Pen Pals Orientation Workshop for Washington Tribal High School Teachers



On September 29, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) partnered with Suquamish Tribe and their tribal school, Chief Kitsap Academy, to present an Ecosystem Pen Pals orientation workshop. Ecosystem Pen Pals is a cultural and environmental pen pal program that assembles indigenous high school students from Washington, Hawaii and American Samoa in a series of year-long school activities. High school teachers from Muckleshoot Tribal School, Chief Kitsap Academy, Taholah High School, Quileute Tribal School and Neah Bay High School attended the one-day workshop held at the OCNMS classroom. Teachers were provided with the program's framework and goals to (1.) foster support for ocean conservation through learned awareness of coastal ecosystems and simultaneously (2.) facilitate cultural-themed written exchanges between

students in the Pacific Rim. Students and teachers will connect with their local national marine sanctuary for support and resources about their local marine ecosystems. Participating teachers heard from Patty Miller from Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, and Isabel Gaoteote from National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa. The workshop also included resources, activities and art to explore our changing ocean through Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), ocean acidification and climate change. Ecosystem Pen Pals is funded through grants from National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and NOAA's B-WET Program.

### Neah Bay and La Push Tribal School Students Learn about Marine Debris



On September 29, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) staff visited Linda Johnson's fourth grade classroom in Neah Bay and worked with 21 students on marine debris activities in the classroom. When weather conditions allow, OCNMS will develop a NOAA Marine Debris Survey site at Front Street Beach, which the class will monitor monthly. On October 27, volunteer and local community member, Sally Parker, led the fourth grade class on their first survey of Front Beach. The class found a significant amount of debris and classified and tallied the debris on a NOAA marine debris data form customized for OCNMS. Dedicated volunteers and educators like Sally and Linda make work and education possible at the local level.

On October 8, they then visited the Quileute Tribal School in La Push to establish a NOAA marine debris site. Twenty fourth, fifth and sixth-grade students helped setup and perform a NOAA Marine Debris Survey at First Beach. During the school year, students and their teacher will conduct a monthly survey at this site located near their school. After collecting and categorizing the debris, the students and educators discussed ocean currents, the origin of marine debris, harmful impacts of marine debris and what we all can do about to reduce and prevent said impacts.

### Olympic Coast Sanctuary Participates in Local Crab and Seafood Festival

On October 9-11, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary joined the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Dungeness Crab and Seafood Festival in Port Angeles ([www.crabfestival.org](http://www.crabfestival.org)) to host an education booth for the general public. Sanctuary staff and volunteers provided general information about the sanctuary and led hands-on ocean acidification activities for people of all ages. The event drew between 10,000-15,000 people from the area, as well as other parts of the U.S. and Canada.



### Sanctuary Staff Attends Olympic Peninsula Tourism Summit

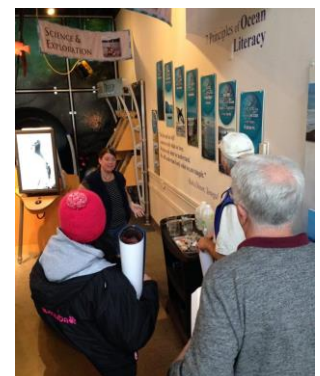
On October 21, the Olympic Peninsula Tourism Commission held its annual Olympic Peninsula Tourism Summit at Fort Worden in Port Townsend, WA,. Sanctuary education staff provided a vendor table, with information about Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and built outreach connections with our outer coast based businesses and visitor centers. The summit was themed, "Shoulder Season Travel: Broadening the Visitor Experience," and included presentations by national, regional and local experts. An annual review of Olympic Peninsula Tourism Commission was shared, followed by case studies on shoulder season success stories, broadening communications reach, Olympic Peninsula Tribal Arts and break-out sessions for building a community of resident experts. Approximately, 150 representatives from regional chambers, businesses, organizations and agency representatives attended the summit. The event served as a platform for the sanctuary to network and establish partnerships.

### Olympic Coast Discovery Center Reaches Over 5,500 Visitors in 2015

Olympic Coast Discovery Center (OCDC), the sanctuary's visitor center, provided interpretive information about the cultural and natural resources within OCNMS and sanctuary programs to 5,579 visitors and locals daily from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day 2015 and weekends in September through mid-October; this was comparable to the visitation numbers during the entire 2015 season. After the annual Dungeness Crab and Seafood Festival in Port Angeles on October 9-11, OCDC closed for the winter season; therefore, until it reopens on May 28, 2016, OCDC will only be open for appointments. In 2015, a total of 23 volunteers participated in OCDC-related activities, where 12 served as docents staffing OCDC. For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, OCDC volunteers contributed a total of 1,182 volunteer hours to the National Marine Sanctuary System.

### Feiro Marine Life Center Volunteers Trained About Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

On October 24, new volunteers at Feiro Marine Life Center visited the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) classroom and Olympic Coast Discovery Center (OCDC) as part of their volunteer training. Sanctuary staff, Nicole Harris, gave an overview of the National Marine Sanctuary System and OCNMS, and the key role sanctuaries play in ocean conservation. Volunteers then toured the OCDC, focusing on interpretive opportunities when working with visitors. As a prevalent partner in education programs with OCNMS, Feiro volunteers receive regular training on sanctuary issues and resources, and OCNMS volunteers receive regular training on Feiro Marine Life Center resources and visitor services.





## CONDUCT COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH, ASSESSMENTS AND MONITORING TO INFORM ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

### Habitat Framework Reviewed by IPC, ONMS Director, NOAA Office of Coastal Management and Expert Biologists

October was an active month for the Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) Habitat Framework Technical Team. IPC had their first opportunity to present the full Habitat Framework concept to ONMS Acting Director John Armor and West Coast Regional Director Bill Dorous during their visit to OCNMS and attendance at the annual IPC meeting. While they were familiar with NOAA's Coastal and Marine Habitat Classification Standard (CMECS), they had an opportunity to understand the value of CMECS to additional state and federal data providers during this visit. In addition, CMECS Implementation Lead, Mark Finkbeiner, from Charleston South Carolina, was a guest speaker at the IPC annual meeting. Mark presented some of the technical details of the habitat characterization, but more importantly emphasized the link between the Habitat Framework and NOAA's goal to bring marine and coastal habitat data into a common classification scheme.



The Biotic Focus Group, comprised of expert biologists from state and federal agencies, also met in October to determine which datasets might inform the Biotic Component of CMECS. These subject experts – including others contributing to the water column, geform and substrate components – have made a significant contribution to the long-term stewardship of data and data models that inform marine resource management by the sanctuary, states and the tribes.

Staff from Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission met to lay out a project management scenario that would provide the Habitat Framework Leadership Team with standards, products and deadlines that are achievable and satisfactory to the IPC and OCNMS. The goal is to work throughout 2016, with benchmark products, and a final draft of maps and metadata built on existing data.

### Olympic Coast Represents National Marine Sanctuaries in NOAA CMECS Implementation Group

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary geographer, Nancy Wright, took part in her first official conference call meeting as the sanctuary representative on the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification System (CMECS) Implementation Group. This board was formed in 2012 to assist users of CMECS with the implementation of data and application of the classification structure. Her first task with this committee is to run the beta tests for the NatureServe software designed to accept new habitat submissions to CMECS. Many of these submissions will come from the Intergovernmental Policy Council Habitat Framework Initiative of CMECS.

### Seasonal Moorings Retrieved as Weather Patterns Intensify

In early October, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary completed the fifteenth consecutive year of a near-shore oceanographic mooring program with retrieval of instrumented buoys. NOAA Corps LTJG Justin Ellis skippered the sanctuary's research vessel, R/V *Tatoosh*, safely through a mechanically challenging season. Kathy Hough, Survey Technician, was the technical lead for instrumentation and data acquisition, and Rio Foster, Biological Technician for the Quileute Tribe, assisted on deck and collected plankton and water samples for the tribe's harmful algal bloom monitoring program. In late May, ten instrumented mooring buoys were deployed at five locations, each with buoys at a depth of 15 and 42 meters, spanning 60 nautical miles of the sanctuary's nearshore waters between Makah Bay and Cape Elizabeth. Instruments record ocean temperature, conductivity (salinity), current velocity and direction, dissolved oxygen, fluorescence (a proxy for plankton) and turbidity, all data to characterize water quality and currents, upwelling and low oxygen events, and ocean productivity. Moorings were serviced on a six week cycle for cleaning, examination, battery replacement and data download. One disappointment was the likely loss of the two southernmost moorings off Cape Elizabeth in October, although hope remains for recovery of the 15 meter mooring that lacks a surface float.

## CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE SANCTUARY

### Shoreline Debris Monitoring to Continue in Washington State

Initiated in 2012, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, in partnership with NOAA Marine Debris, has been conducting a shoreline debris monitoring project. The goal of the project has been to characterize the amount and types of debris, and to identify changes in debris deposition associated with the influx of oceanic debris generated by the March 2011 tsunami that hit Japan. Another purpose of monitoring is to support marine debris education and outreach and to identify opportunities for source reduction efforts, particularly with local sources of debris. The survey cycle has recently been extended and funded to the fall of 2017, which will enable the completion of continuous monthly surveys for five years, a commonly used field studies benchmark, and increase the overall power of the survey for study and analysis.

### Third Consecutive International Coastal Cleanup a Success!

On September 19, more than 300 volunteers collected and hauled marine debris from Washington coastal beaches for the 2015 International Coastal Cleanup. Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) partnered with Washington CoastSavers and the Surfrider Foundation on beaches from Columbia River to Cape Flattery and along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. OCNMS staff organized volunteers at Neah Bay registration station and coordinated cleanups at Hobuck, Sooes, Shi Shi, Portage Head and Point of the Arches beaches. The sanctuary is a founding member of Washington CoastSavers and contributes significantly to the organization's long range planning, funding and event coordination. Following the cleanup, volunteers were treated to barbecues at the registration stations, as well as the opportunity to attend the free Salmon Feed and Poetry Read at Tillicum Park in Forks, WA. The day was a great success due to the collaboration between several organizations and outstanding volunteer dedication.



### Derelict Crab Gear Removal Efforts a Success

This fall marks the second successful year for derelict crab gear removal work off the Washington coast, a collaboration between The Nature Conservancy and Quinault Indian Nation, supported by funding from NOAA's Marine Debris Program. All commercial crab gear is pulled from outer coast waters in the early fall before the winter storm surges, and gear that remains is considered to be derelict. In order to carry out removal efforts, locations for floats at the surface can be reported directly to fishery managers, and a fixed wing plane covers a large area search area to map target locations for gear removal by Quinault fishermen. These low altitude flights within Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary's overflight restriction zone are conducted under a sanctuary permit to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. This fall was a success! Specifically, 274 pots with lines and floats were removed, and an additional 105 lines were cut when pots were buried, a measure to reduce the risk of whale entanglement risk in derelict gear. Next fall, The Nature Conservancy has a similar collaboration planned with the Quileute Tribe.

### Sanctuary Investigates Report of Ocean Dumping

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries authorized the investigation of reported ocean dumping in the vicinity of Cape Flattery in both the Makah Tribe's usual and accustomed fishing area and within the sanctuary's boundaries. In 2013, a Makah fisherman pulled up several crushed cars in his trawl net. A survey utilizing side-scan sonar and a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) was conducted to locate and document the reported debris. The sanctuary and the Makah Tribe observed the survey, which successfully located and documented additional debris. Currently, NOAA is examining the information collected and determining a course of action.

## SANCTUARY PERMITTING

### Issued Permits and Authorizations

**OCNMS-2015-004** – Jennifer Flavin, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Armstrong Flight Research Center

**Project Title:** Olympic Mountain Precipitation Experiment (OLYMPEX)

**Permitted Activity:** Discharge of up to 12 dropsondes (electronic atmospheric measuring equipment with 1 square foot nylon parachute) from approximately 35,000 feet altitude.

**Project Location:** Instruments will hit the ocean and sink 25 or more nautical miles offshore. NASA predicts that most of the 12 dropsondes will be deployed offshore beyond sanctuary boundaries.

**Permit Duration:** Less than two months, November 10-December 21, 2015

**Comment:** OLYMPEX is a NASA Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) mission planned to improve GPM data products and implications for flood prediction, water resource management, etc. by developing a better understanding of the meteorology and hydrology of complex terrain.

### Pending Permit Requests

**OCNMS-2005-013** – Kurt Johnson, PC Landing Corp.

**Project Title:** Operation, Maintenance, Reinstallation and Removal of PC-1 Fiber Optic Cables in the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

**Permitted Activity:** Altering or disturbing the seafloor in connection with the continued placement, operation, repair, remediation and removal of the PC-1 cables; and constructing or placing the PC-1 cables on or under the seabed, as described in this permit, in accordance with the this permit, the settlement agreement, remediation protocol, remediation plan and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit.

**Project Location:** Within the existing corridor of the PC-1 East and PC-1 North cables, from the western Strait of Juan de Fuca to the northwestern boundary of the sanctuary.

**Permit Duration:** Five years, through November 2020.

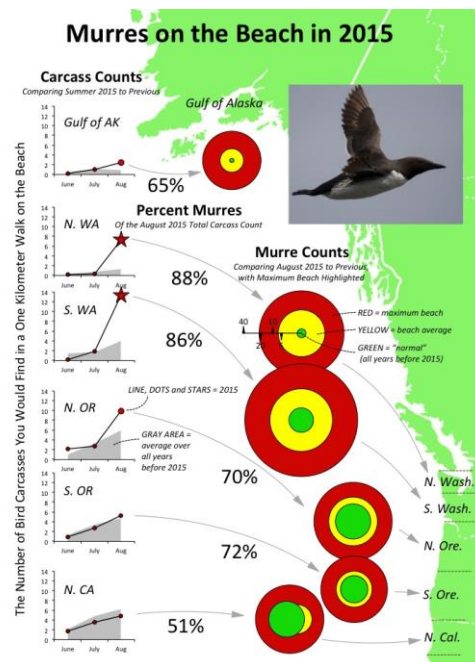
**Comment:** This is a routine renewal of PCL's permit. Minor changes to permit language are anticipated to delete reference to past activities no longer relevant to this permit in the future.

## LEARN ABOUT YOUR SANCTUARY / NATURAL HISTORY

### COASST Volunteers Continue to Document Common Murre Wreck

Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) continue to notice and study the Common Murre die-off, with reports of high numbers of dead birds washing ashore beaches where COASST volunteers conduct monthly surveys. They created the following infographic to help convey the information collected. Along the outer coast of Washington, the carcass encounter rate is significantly higher (stars) than normal (gray area), as well as higher than any other year in the COASST record. Murre carcass counts are also significantly above normal (see green versus yellow on bull's eye plot) in Washington, with the maximum beach spiking to 3-4 times the average (see red versus yellow).

For murres, the long-term average in Oregon and northern California is not different than the 2015 value, even though single beaches (e.g., the maximum value) are reporting high values. In the Gulf of Alaska, Common Murre numbers are contributing to higher than normal carcass counts, although this signal pales in comparison to the lower 48. Note, the long-term averages are variable length intervals: AK from 2007, N. WA – 2002, S.WA – 2001, N. OR – 2002, S. OR – 2006, N. CA – 2006.



## REGIONAL / NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM NEWS

### Chumash Community Makes Long-distance Canoe Journey



In a continuing tradition, the annual 17.2 mile Chumash community tomol crossing from Channel Islands Harbor to Limuw (Santa Cruz Island) took place on September 26. The tomol, *Muptami*, made the journey with 25 "pullers" on hand to rotate into the six-person, traditional plank-built canoe. Two escort vessels assisted with the crossing, including Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary's R/V *Shearwater*. *Muptami* departed at 2:40 A.M. and reached its destination in just over seven hours, one of the fastest times since the annual event began in 2001. Paddlers were greeted by songs and hugs from more than 100 Chumash family members and friends gathered at the historic village site of Swaxil. Since

1996, the sanctuary has supported the maritime heritage activities of the indigenous Chumash people, when sanctuary staff helped the Chumash Maritime Association construct the tomol, 'Elye'wun.

### Two Sites Identified for Possible Designation as National Marine Sanctuaries

In June 2014, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries established the Sanctuary Nomination Process (SNP) to allow the American public to nominate nationally significant marine and Great Lakes areas as potential new national marine sanctuaries. This community-based nomination process responds to numerous requests for new sanctuaries from interested communities and stakeholders around the country. The SNP will not result in the automatic designation of any new national marine sanctuaries; however, the nomination process will result in an inventory of areas NOAA may consider for national marine sanctuary designation, taking into account input and support from various local, regional and national interests and organizations. Sanctuary designation is a separate public process that, by law, is highly public and participatory, and often takes several years to complete.

Since 2014, NOAA has received seven nominations, three of which were accepted onto the inventory of areas that NOAA could consider for designation as a national marine sanctuary: (1.) the Chumash Heritage nomination off California; (2.) the Mallows Bay nomination in Maryland's Potomac River; and (3.) an area of Wisconsin's Lake Michigan waters. At the Our Ocean Conference in October 2015, President Obama announced that NOAA would begin the designation process for two of the areas on the inventory — the Mallows Bay area of Maryland's Potomac River and an area of Wisconsin's Lake Michigan waters from Port Washington to Two Rivers.

NOAA designates new national marine sanctuaries under authority from the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA), which describes the steps and procedures for the designation process. NOAA begins the multi-year designation process with

a public scoping process where we ask the public for input on potential boundaries, resources that could be protected, issues NOAA should consider and any information that should be included in the resource analysis. The public scoping process has begun for Mallows Bay and Wisconsin with NOAA taking public comment until January 15, 2016. In November, NOAA will host public meetings to talk about these areas and the designation process, answer questions, as well as take public comments. For more information visit, [www.nominate.noaa.gov](http://www.nominate.noaa.gov).

### **Three New Shipwreck Discoveries in Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary**

Three new shipwrecks were recently discovered during an eight-day maritime heritage expedition aboard the R/V *Fulmar* in Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. The major discovery was of the steam trawler, *Ituna*, lost 95 years ago. At 170 feet long, it was once the largest steam trawler fishing out of San Francisco. Two additional discoveries included a 167 foot fuel barge and a commercial fishing trawler lost in more recent years. The science team also conducted remotely operated vehicle and autonomous underwater vehicle surveys of shipwrecks found during phase one of the expedition in September 2014. The mission included NOAA staff, federal and state partners, volunteers and Teledyne SeaBotix, Inc.

## **MARINE-RELATED NEWS COVERAGE**

### **Navy Issues Final Environmental Impact Document on Use of Sonar, Explosives in Waters of Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound and Alaskan canal**

"The U.S. Navy has released its final environmental impact statement on its proposals for use of sonar and explosives for training and testing in the Puget Sound, Strait of Juan de Fuca and Behm Canal in southeastern Alaska. The release of the Northwest Training and Testing Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement starts a 30-day clock before a final decision."

[www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20151005/news/310059980/navy-issues-final-environmental-impact-document-on-use-of-sonar](http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20151005/news/310059980/navy-issues-final-environmental-impact-document-on-use-of-sonar)

### **Critics Say Whales Put at Risk by Navy Testing Plan**

"The Navy released the final environmental review Friday for its proposed sonar and explosives training practices in waters off the coast of the Northwest."

[kuow.org/post/critics-say-whales-put-risk-navy-testing-plan](http://kuow.org/post/critics-say-whales-put-risk-navy-testing-plan)

### **Obama Just Announced the First New Marine Sanctuaries in 15 Years**

"In a world whose natural areas are increasingly threatened by human activities, the oceans have been among the most heavily impacted environments. Pollution, overfishing and the effects of climate change are just a few of the major challenges facing marine ecosystems around the world — and these issues threaten not only the myriad organisms that live in the sea, but all the people around the world who rely on the ocean for their food and livelihoods."

[www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/10/05/obama-just-announced-the-first-new-marine-sanctuaries-in-15-years/?postshare=2071444040221529](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/10/05/obama-just-announced-the-first-new-marine-sanctuaries-in-15-years/?postshare=2071444040221529)

### **Elwha River Documentary Wins "Oscars of Nature Film" at Jackson Hole Festival**

"No way could this pair of filmmakers, from two communities on the North Olympic Peninsula, turn away from the story."

[www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20151006/NEWS/310069987/elwha-river-documentary-wins-oscars-of-nature-film-at-jackson-hole](http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20151006/NEWS/310069987/elwha-river-documentary-wins-oscars-of-nature-film-at-jackson-hole)

### **Northern Elephant Seal to be Topic of Talk in Forks on Friday**

"The Olympic Natural Resources Center will present a program on the northern elephant seal this Friday. The talk by Rob Wamstad will be at 7 p.m. in the Hemlock Forest Room at the center at 1455 S. Forks Ave. It is part of a series of Evening Talks at the center."

[www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20151011/news/310119988/northern-elephant-seal-to-be-topic-of-talk-in-forks-on-friday](http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20151011/news/310119988/northern-elephant-seal-to-be-topic-of-talk-in-forks-on-friday)

### **Feiro Offers Underwater Robotics**

"Youths in middle and high school can join staff and volunteers from Feiro Marine Life Center and the NOAA Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary to learn how to design and build remotely operated vehicles (ROV) that can be 'flown' underwater."

[www.sequimgazette.com/community/332810461.html](http://www.sequimgazette.com/community/332810461.html)



### Marine Food Chains at Risk of Collapse, Extensive Study of World's Oceans Finds

"Important ecosystems could be massively damaged by 2050 unless greenhouse gas emissions and localised pollution is drastically reduced, researchers say."

[www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/oct/13/marine-food-chains-at-risk-of-collapse-extensive-study-of-worlds-oceans-reveals](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/oct/13/marine-food-chains-at-risk-of-collapse-extensive-study-of-worlds-oceans-reveals)

### Crustacean Jubilation Hits Port Angeles Today When Dungeness Crab and Seafood Festival Cracks Open at City Pier

"You don't have to walk sideways to the Dungeness Crab & Seafood Festival, but, given the crowds that traditionally attend the fall feast, you may find yourself scuttling along."

[www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20151009/NEWS/310099971/crustacean-jubilation-hits-port-angeles-today-when-dungeness-crab](http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20151009/NEWS/310099971/crustacean-jubilation-hits-port-angeles-today-when-dungeness-crab)

### Newborn Orca Makes its Appearance in Southern Resident Pod

"The endangered Southern Resident orcas have welcomed yet another new addition. The Center for Whale Research in Friday Harbor confirmed on its Facebook page this weekend that a newborn orca designated as J53 was seen traveling Saturday in Haro Strait with a 38-year-old orca known as Princess Angeline."

[www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20151026/news/310269980/newborn-orca-makes-its-appearance-in-southern-resident-pod](http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20151026/news/310269980/newborn-orca-makes-its-appearance-in-southern-resident-pod)

### Quinault Tribe Closes Fisheries Due to Low Salmon Returns

"The Quinault Indian Nation has shut down all of its fisheries in Grays Harbor and Queets River because of low returns of wild Coho salmon. Tribal president Fawn Sharp said in a statement Thursday that the closure will hurt fisherman and the community but it's the right thing to do to protect salmon."

[www.khq.com/story/30386663/quinault-tribe-closes-fisheries-due-to-low-salmon-returns](http://www.khq.com/story/30386663/quinault-tribe-closes-fisheries-due-to-low-salmon-returns)

## OCNMS ONLINE

Visit our website at: <http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/>.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

<https://www.facebook.com/usolympiccoastgov>

<https://twitter.com/olympiccoast>

*Please take a few moments to peruse the site. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.*

*Comments and suggestions can be sent to:  
[Jacqueline.Laverdure@noaa.gov](mailto:Jacqueline.Laverdure@noaa.gov).*

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## FUN, OCEAN-RELATED WEBSITES

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

<http://www.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Ocean Explorer

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/>

National Ocean Service

<http://www.nos.noaa.gov/>

National Data Buoy Center

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtml>

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

Washington's Ocean Resources

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/ocean/index.html>

NOAA Marine Debris Program

<http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/>

CoastWatch – West Coast Regional Node

<http://coastwatch.pfel.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Online Media Library

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/photos>

Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems

<http://www.nanoos.org/>

Encyclopedia of National Marine Sanctuaries

<http://www8.nos.noaa.gov/onms/park/>

NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory

<http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/>



## OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

### Learn More About Your Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Office Report is produced bi-monthly by Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with sanctuary advisory council meetings. To learn more about the sanctuary, please visit our website at:

<http://www.olympiccoast.noaa.gov>.

To learn more about the sanctuary advisory council, please visit:

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac\\_welcome.html](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_welcome.html).

#### Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS)

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is one of the marine protected areas in the National Marine Sanctuary System encompassing more than 170,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The system includes thirteen national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments. Visit the ONMS website at:

<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>.

### Get Involved!

To learn how to get involved in the sanctuary visit:

<http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/welcome.html>.

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